

# FLAMBOROUGH HEAD STORYBOARD TRAIL

## North Landing to Thornwick Bay



Follow the red numbered posts, around cliffs starting at North Landing Car Park and finishing at Thornwick Bay. Stop at each post and learn more about one of the storyboard themes from the guide or podcasts. Don't forget to look out for the storyboard panels on route, marked **S** on the map; each trail includes one or more.

**S** STORYBOARD – discover the story of fishing here.

### 1 HISTORY

The building visible at the top of the slipway was once Flamborough's primary lifeboat station, built in 1871 for £185. Another was built at South Landing which meant a lifeboat could always be launched into the sea whatever the weather conditions. Both stations operated for 67 years until 1938 when a motorised lifeboat was allocated to North Landing and the South Landing station was closed.

### 2 GEOLOGY

Holmes Gut has been formed by the constant flow of water draining off the headland. The result is a steep sided valley in which the water runs in a northerly direction. This flow is against the more usual southerly direction found throughout the rest of the headland.

### 3 FISHING

The history of fishing out of North Landing can be traced back to thirteenth century. The boats sat at the top of the beach are traditional Yorkshire cobbles, specially designed and built to operate in areas with no harbour. The shallow keel allows the boats to be dragged up and down the beach and also offers stability when landing on the shore.

### 4 FARMING AND WILDLIFE

During the winter months these fields, owned and managed by Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, are grazed by Exmoor ponies. Grazing is used to control dominant grasses from taking over and reducing diversity. The result, best seen in spring and summer, is a rich grass-land of salt and limestone-loving species growing side-by-side.

### 5 LIGHTHOUSES AND SHIPPING

At this point, look towards the south-east. Here you can see both of Flamborough Head's lighthouses. The main lighthouse, still in use

today, was built in 1806, while the chalk tower you can see dates back to 1674; thought to be the only known example in England of a chalk beacon tower. This point also offers sweeping sea views as well as evidence of the area's commercial importance; be it a traditional coble out potting or a huge cargo ship passing by on its way to or from Hull.

### 6 SEABIRDS

The huge cliffs you can see in the distance (in a north-westerly direction) are those of Bempton. During the summer months these cliffs are home to tens of thousands of breeding seabirds, including England's only mainland Gannet colony. The nutrient-rich waters surrounding the headland also produce rich feeding so keep an eye out for Gannets plummeting head first into the waves.

### 7 MARINE WILDLIFE

Look down into Thornwick Bay. At low tide the upper fringes of Flamborough's chalk reef are exposed. This unique habitat extends for 6km out to sea, forming the largest chalk reef in Europe. This area is rich in species: crabs, lobsters and octopus hide amongst crevices in the rock, while kelp clings to towers of chalk, forming vast forests full of sheltering fish, starfish and sea urchins. As depth increases and light fades, the chalk reef plays host to a rich 'faunal turf' made up of sponges, anemones, soft corals and sea squirts.

### 8 MIGRATION

Thornwick Bay, just below the cliffs in front of you, is used each year by a storm petrel ringing group. During the hours of darkness in July and August, passing storm petrels are enticed to the bay for ringing and to collect valuable biological data. A fine net is erected parallel to the shore while seaward facing sound equipment is used to project the bird's eerie call far out to sea. For this to work wind must be offshore to allow passing birds, up to 5 miles away, to hear it.

**S** STORYBOARD – discover the story of geology here.



Yorkshire fishing cobbles at North Landing



Courtesy of Flamborough Marine